

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

DATE 0029Z 22 MAR 63

~~SECRET~~

ROUTING

1	4
2	5
3	6

TO : DIRECTOR

FROM :

ACTION: OSA (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,0)

INFO : S/C (11)

PRIORITY

IN 69836

TOR: 0120Z 22 MAR 63

TO PRITY

INFO

CITE

8743

OXCART

NO NITE ACTION

EO 12958 3.3(b)(1)>2

1. ARTICLE NUMBER 123 MADE FLT 56 21 MAR 63. ENDURANCE 2 HOURS AND 15 MINUTES. GROSS WEIGHT 90,000, CG 20 PERCENT. PILOT BOB GILLILAND. MAXIMUM SPEED 319 KEAS AT 30,000 FEET. MAXIMUM ALTITUDE 30,000 FEET. PURPOSE OF FLT INS, TYPE II PAYLOAD, AND ADF TESTS.

2. THE PROGRAM TODAY 21 MAR 63 WAS TO MAKE 6 PASSES OVER THE TARGETS AT [REDACTED] EACH PASS AT A SLIGHTLY CHANGED FOCUS OF THE CAMERA TO CALIBRATE THE CAMERA TO THE OPTIMUM FOCAL LENGTH.

3. TAKEOFF WAS MADE IN AB FOLLOWED BY A CLIMB TO 30,000 FEET DIRECTLY OVER THE BASE. FROM HERE THE ARTICLE MADE THE FIRST PASS OVER [REDACTED] GOING NORTH, RETURNED GOING SOUTH, AND ONCE MORE GOING NORTH. AT THIS POINT A RUN WAS MADE OVER THE TRIANGULAR INS COURSE BETWEEN AUSTIN, ELY, AND CURRENT. DURING THIS PHASE THE AUTO-NAVIGATION MODE WAS TRIED BUT WAS TOO DIFFICULT

~~SECRET~~

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

REPRODUCTION BY OTHER THAN THE ISSUING OFFICE IS PROHIBITED.

Copy No.

~~SECRET~~

IN 69836

[] 8743

PAGE TWO

TO USE TO GET ON COURSE HOWEVER ONCE THE ARTICLE WAS PUT ON COURSE MANUALLY THIS MODE WORKED FINE. THIS WAS THEN FOLLOWED BY THREE MORE RUNS OVER THE TARGETS AT [] GOING NORTH AND SOUTH.

4. THE PILOT REPORTED THAT THE INS SHOWED NO ERROR AT ELY, AUSTIN, CURRENT, AND OVER EARTH BUT WAS OFF 4 MILES ON DISTANCE TO GO AT [] (READ 96 MILES, SHOULD READ 100).

5. THE NEW ADF ANTENNA WAS TRIED AND PILOT WAS ABLE TO HOME PERFECTLY ON EARTH FROM 100 MILES OUT, HOWEVER THE FREQUENCIES SEEM TO BE OFF. IN TRYING TO TUNE ELY HE GOT RENO WITH EXCELLENT DIRECTION INDICATION. FREQUENCY OF EARTH WAS OFF ALSO.

6. GILLILAND WILL DO NIGHT TAKEOFFS AND LANDINGS IN 124 TONIGHT 21 MAR 63.

7. THEY ARE STILL TRYING TO GET 122 IN THE AIR TODAY 21 MAR 63 BUT IT LOOKS MORE LIKELY IT WILL BE 22 MAR 63. NUMBER 123 IS SCHEDULED TO FLY TYPE III AND INS 22 MAR 63. NUMBER 124 IS SCHEDULED FOR TRAINING FLT TOMORROW 22 MAR 63.

8. ENGINE 217 HAS NOT AS YET BEEN RECEIVED BY LAC FOR INSTALLATION IN NUMBER 121 SO IT IS UNLIKELY 121 WILL BE READY FOR FLT BEFORE 23 OR 25 MARCH.

9. NUMBER 125 IS STILL DOWN FOR ARC-50 INSTALLATION.

10. NUMBER 126 ARRIVED LATE LAST NIGHT 20 MAR 63 AND HAS BEEN UNCRATED. ACCORDING TO INSPECTION RECORDS THERE IS CONSIDERABLE FACTORY FINAL ASSEMBLY AND TEST

TO BE DONE ON THE ACFT [] AS HAS BEEN THE CASE ON ALL

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

IN 69836

8743

PAGE THREE

ACFT DELIVERED TO DATE EXCEPT NUMBER 121. NUMBER 126 IS NO IMPROVEMENT OVER 125 AND POSSIBLY A LITTLE WORSE. ESTIMATE FOUR WEEKS OF ASSEMBLY AND TEST REMAINS PLUS THE FLT TEST CREWS' FINAL TESTS, CHECKOUTS, INSPECTIONS, RUN UPS, ETC, FOR AN ESTIMATED TOTAL OF EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE FLT READY. THESE ESTIMATES BASED ON PAST PERFORMANCE ON FIRST 5 ACFT.

S/16

END OF MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~